

Message Text

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72-S

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6502

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3584

LIMDIS

PASS SY FOR KNAUF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: OPERATIONS OF US TRADE CENTER

REFS: A. BA 3417, B. BA 3421, C. BA 3327

1. STRONG ADVERSE REACTION ON PART OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO INFORMATION THAT USG CONSIDERING CLOSURE US TRADE CENTER(REF A) AND THE ASSURANCE EXTENDED BY GOA OFFICERS THAT THEY ARE READY TO PLACE TWO MEMBERS FEDERAL POLICE ON SITE OF TRADE CENTER FOR SECURITY PURPOSES ON 24 HOUR BASIS (REF B), HAVE CAUSED ME TO RECONSIDER RECOMMENDATION MADE IN REF C TO CLOSE TRADE CENTER AT EARLIEST FEASIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

2. I BELIEVE THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS, SINCE RECEIPT REFTELS A AND B, RECONSIDERING POLITICAL POSTURE AND SITUATION BETWEEN USG AND GOA. IN VIEW OF THE ASSURANCES EXTENDED BY GOA, I NOW WISH TO RECOMMEND THAT WE MAINTAIN THE US TRADE CENTER AND ITS PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES RELATIVELY MAJOR EXHIBITIONS OF US EQUIPMENT IN JUNE AND EVERY MONTH BUT ONE FROM NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER.

3. THE INCREASED SECURITY STAFF AT THIS POST HAS REVIEWED THE SITUATION AT THE TRADE CENTER. THESE OFFICERS BELIEVE
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THAT THE TRADE CENTER, ITS EMPLOYEES AND EXHIBITORS, WILL BE

RELATIVELY WELL PROTECTED IF GOA PROVIDES THE ADDED SECURITY MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN PROMISED AND, IN ADDITION, EXPENDITURES OF APPROXIMATELY \$25 - 30,000 ARE MADE TO IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF THE INSTALLATION. THIS WOULD REQUIRE INSTALLATION OF BULLET PROOF GLASS AS WELL AS OTHER PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS.

4. AT THE MOMENT, PREPARATIONS FOR FOOD PROCESSING MACHINE EXHIBITION IN LATE JUNE ARE IN A STATE OF SUSPENSE TOGETHER WITH PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS FOR LATER EXHIBITIONS. OUR TRADE CENTER DIRECTOR AND THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION HAVE AN OPERATIONS PROBLEM IN THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT DELAY CONCERNING A DECISION OF CLOSURE OR RETENTION OF THE TRADE CENTER MAY PREVENT EARLY AND EFFECTIVE CIRCULATION TO PROSPECTIVE ATTENDEES FOR THE JUNE SHOW. REQUEST THAT A HIGH PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM AND THAT PROMPT NOTICE OF THE DECISIONS REACHED BY STATE AND COMMERCE BE TRANSMITTED TO ME SO THAT WE MAY EITHER PROCEED WITH PREPARATION FOR THE JUNE EXHIBITION OR CLOSURE OF THE TRADE CENTER WITH APPROPRIATE COMMENTS TO ARGENTINE OFFICIALS.

HILL

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR TWOHIE, S/S-O.

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